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### University of Montana inaugurates \$9 vehicle registration fee

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# NEWS

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## UM INAUGURATES \$9 VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEE

MISSOULA--

A vehicle registration fee has been established at the University of Montana. It was inaugurated to provide money for improving University parking lots after the Board of Regents authorized the University to assess up to \$15 per academic year for each person registering a vehicle.

The vehicle registration fee for faculty, staff and students at UM will be \$9. This \$9 fee for 1967-68 academic year will be paid at fall quarter registration.

If a student does not return to school winter or spring quarter, his money will be refunded at the rate of \$3 per quarter, according to J.A. Parker, director of the Physical Plant. There is no vehicle registration for summer quarter.

The fee will be used to cover expenses of improving parking areas. This includes acquiring land, improving parking surfaces, providing drainage, lighting, signs and markers and landscaping the parking lots.

Mr. Parker estimated that the fee will bring in a revenue of approximately \$25,000 its first year. This money will be used for improvement of the parking lot south of Elrod Hall. The Sorenson and Shelton Engineering Firm of Missoula is currently working on plans to effect some improvement in this lot, Mr. Parker said.

Mr. Parker noted that as of last year Eastern Montana College at Billings assessed a vehicle registration fee of \$15 for three quarters. Montana State University at Bozeman charged \$6 for faculty and staff and \$3 for students per academic year. Regarding the fee variation among Montana schools, he said that each school has different problems and needs in the area of vehicle registration.

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"At the University of Montana we need \$200,000 to surface the parking areas we can see right now. This makes it a long-term project at \$25,000 a year," Parker said.

U.M. President Robert T. Pantzer said, "Registration or parking fees are being charged at many schools over the country. The new registration fee at the University is most nominal compared to those that are charged by a number of schools."

After paying the vehicle registration fee, each person will receive a small sticker to be affixed to the left section of the vehicle's rear bumper. In former years decals were placed on windshields. According to Mr. Parker this practice had to be discontinued because in some states it is against the law to clutter the windshield with stickers. Consequently, many out-of-state students were not displaying their decals.